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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities in the Area of the First Gds Mecz Army

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 10 August 1955REFERENCES 100-10 000PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS 25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 11 July 1955, the Hindenburg Kaserne (8253) in Leipzig was occupied by 350 to 400 soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets including some with signal insignia.¹ 25X1
2. On 12 July, the barracks installation in Leipzig-Schoenau was occupied by approximately 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered red epaulets with artillery insignia. Between 300 and 400 soldiers were absent from the installation. Motor vehicle were seen in the installation. 25X1
3. At about 1400 on 13 July, 10 AT guns, presumably of 57 mm; 12 trucks and 4 armored personnel carriers were entrained at the Plagwitz railroad station.²
4. On 14 July, the kaserne in Leipzig-Heiterblick was occupied by some 600 to 700 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Between 400 and 500 soldiers were absent. No activities and no tanks or vehicles were observed in the installation. The doors of the sheds were closed. Motor vehicles entered and left the installation. Several driving-school trucks including the following numbers were seen between Taucha and Dewitz: 25X1
5. Between 9 and 19 July, the barracks installation in Leipzig-Heiterblick was occupied by approximately 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank and motor transport insignia and, a few, black-bordered crimson epaulets. 25X1
6. The units engaged in advanced combat and field training, sometimes with tanks, in the training area south of the installation. Driving practices and night training with tanks were observed in the wooded area of Tresen, 7 km east of Taucha. The tanks left the installation after nightfall and returned shortly before dawn.

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8. Between 9 and 19 July, no loadings or unloadings were observed at the Taucha railroad station.³

9. Between 1 and 16 July, the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne (1802) in Riesa was occupied by the following units:

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a. A medium tank unit of some 700 soldiers, who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including about 75 percent with tank insignia. The unit was presumably under the command of a colonel of the armored command. Heavy weapons observed included about 25 T-34/35 tanks, about 15 T-54 tanks, 2 to 3 salvage tanks, and several armored personnel carriers and BA-64 armored scout cars. Light infantry weapons observed included pistols, and submachine guns of a new type and of type PPS model 1943, the latter at a rate of about 3 to 1. At about 0700 on 14 July, 2 T-54 tanks left the installation toward the training grounds and returned at 2000. In the morning of 16 July, imprints of tracks of 6 to 8 T-54 tanks led from the Riesa freight station to the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne.⁴

b. A unit of approximately 120 soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets, most of them with signal insignia. The unit was under the command of a major of the signal troops.⁵

c. A military band of approximately 20 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets.⁴

10. Between 1 and 16 July, the Mudra Kaserne (1801) in Riesa was occupied as follows:

a. An engineer unit of some 250 men who wore red-bordered black and blue-bordered black epaulets. The unit was presumably under the command of a lieutenant colonel (enr). The following weapons and equipment were observed: 36 THP steel pontoons, steel supports and pertinent wooden covering, 1 DUKW 353-type amphibious vehicle, 2 US Ford GPA-type amphibious vehicles, 2 large and 2 small motorboats, 2 crane trucks, and 1 ambulance. Four 37-mm AA guns were repeatedly seen in the installation in connection with the engineer unit.⁶

b. A medium AA battery (?) with 5 x 85-mm AA guns and 1 AAA fire-control director, which had been observed there since about January 1955. The pertinent unit numbered approximately 80 soldiers, who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.

c. Presumably a motor transport unit, since some 200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor-transport insignia and some 50 trucks, predominantly ZIS 150 and GAZ 63, were observed in the installation. Two sheds of 30 x 12 meters were under construction, one in the east and one in the southwest section of the installation.⁸

d. A small unit wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. The imprints of a track-laying vehicle were recently observed leading into the installation. A few armored vehicles may be stationed in the installation.⁹

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1. Comment. The information indicates no changes. 25X1
2. Comment. According to branch-of-service insignia (arty) and motor-vehicle [] the Leipzig-Heiterblick Kaserne was presumably occupied by elements of the 13th AAA Div. of the Eighth Gds Army. Motor vehicle [] are believed to belong to the 8th Gds Mecz Div, and [] to CSFG. The unit, which was entrained on 13 July, presumably belonged to the 19th Gds Mecz Regt of the 8th Gds Mecz Div. 25X1
3. Comment. The varying information on the occupation strength presumably resulted from changes in connection with training activity. The motor-vehicle [] are believed to belong to the 8th Gds Mecz Div, and the First Gds Mecz Army. 25X1
4. Comment. The tank unit in the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne in Riesa is believed to be the 108th Tank Regt of the 9th Tank Div. Since the installation quarters only one tank unit, therefore, the 95th Tank Regt, the military post of which could not definitely be determined, is probably stationed in Zeithain (1901) (until now believed to be stationed in Zeithain or Riesa). [] the 9th Tank Div. in Riesa received 18 tanks [] on 15 July. The shipment had been designated as carrying a load exceeding standard measurements. The military band presumably belonged to the 108th Tank Regt. 25X1
5. Comment. The signal unit observed in the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne probably is the u/i Sig Bn of the 9th Tank Div. the location of which could not be determined (until now believed to be stationed in the Mudra Kaserne (1801?) or Von-der-Goltz Kaserne (1802)). 25X1
6. Comment. The installation of the 286th Engr Bn of the 9th Tank Div. is known. The 4 AA guns reportedly seen with the engineer unit, probably belonged to the AAA unit stationed in the same installation, and were presumably detached to the engineer battalion for the duration of exercises. See [] Comment 7. The engineer equipment observed there confirms available information on the equipment of an engineer battalion of a tank division. The TNP pontoons deserve special attention. 25X1
7. Comment. This AAA unit probably belongs to the 216th (?) AAA Regt of the 9th Tank Div. Elements of the regiment were stationed at the Zeithain training grounds during the period under review. [] The absence of these elements may explain the small number of weapons. 25X1
8. Comment. Branch-of-service insignia and vehicles observed tend to indicate that the Mudra Kaserne in Riesa, among other units, quarters a motor-transport unit. The u/i Motor Trans Bn of the 9th Tank Div, which was probably concerned, had so far been carried in Camp Zeithain (?) (1901 ?). 25X1
9. Comment. These were probably elements of the 671st Tank Tng Bn of the 9th Tank Div. It remains to be seen if the transfer of the battalion to Zeithain, [] was temporary or permanent. 25X1

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